

**Tunisia
News**
*is available
on board*



Tunisia News

**Tunisia
News**

is seeking candidates for translation work from French to English and processing of press articles. A good command of the English language and basic computer skills are imperative.

For interviews, please send CV and letter of motivation to:
Tunisia News
Imprimerie Tunis-Carthage
Z.I. Chargaia, Rue 8601 N° 40
2035 Tunis-Carthage
or fax to: 71 794 891

Weekly Newspaper - Founder Director : Tijani Haddad - 10th Year, Number 559 April 17, 2004 - Price 1T.D. - Address : Z.I. Chargaia 2035 Tunis-Carthage - Tel. : 71.78.63.18 - Fax : 71.79.48.91

Financing the economy and mobilizing long-term saving

• 2004 finance law: new incentives to enhance saving

President Ben Ali received Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi on Tuesday morning with whom he reviewed the financing of the national economy and enterprises in light of the measures that have been instigated to boost saving in its different forms. The Head of State enquired into the progress in implementing the provisions of the 2004 Finance Law, particularly those concerning the system of savings stocks and their operation.



TUNISIA-ALGERIA Ben Ali congratulates Bouteflika

President Ben Ali sent a congratulatory message to Abdelaziz Bouteflika on his re-election as president of Algeria in which he conveyed his congratulations and that of the Tunisian people for the renewal of confidence shown by the people of Algeria. The President of the Republic wished the Algerian president further success in his leadership of the brotherly Algerian people and fulfilling their

prosperity.

The Head of State also expressed his satisfaction at the solid brotherly ties and fruitful relations of cooperation, at the same time as voicing his conviction that the relations will prosper further given the will of the two leaders to strengthen the ties of solidarity and complementarity with a view to consolidating the efforts to construct the Arab Maghreb.

The provisions also contemplate developing the commercialization of insurance services and consolidating the life insurance system by exonerating annuities received from life insurance policies from income tax.

The President of the Republic also enquired into the progress on implementing the measures aimed at giving an impetus to the stock market, given its role in mobilizing medium- and long-term saving and providing businesses with necessary finan-



cing. He also recommended accelerating the drafting of the law aimed at protecting financial transactions and reinforcing the credibility of the capital market and stressed the need to make the incentives offered to companies listing

themselves on the market more widely known.

In this context, President Ben Ali emphasized the importance of giving an impetus to the upgrading programme for Tunisia's banks, consolidating their position on the

capital market and improving their services in order to be in line with current international standards as well as diversifying their mechanisms for mobilizing long-term saving and financing economic activities.

aspirations for progress and

Israeli plan for withdrawal from the occupied territories

• American support for plan triggers Palestinians' fury

American President George Bush's support for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan for withdrawal from the Gaza strip and the continued presence of Jewish colonies in the West Bank has provoked fury amongst the Palestinians.

Palestinian President Arafat and Prime Minister Korf deplored America's support of the plan and vowed that the Palestinian people would not renounce its right to freedom and independence.

The Arab League also expressed its regret that "the United States has changed its

position on critical Palestinian issues. Its support will strengthen Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories. No state, especially if it has a mediating role, has the right to renounce the Palestinians' rights, territories and future."

For his part, the United Nations Secretary-general Kofi Annan commented that the Palestinians' will had been ignored, while for French President Jacques Chirac, "disputing the borders agreed on constitutes a regrettable and serious precedent".

Cabinet meeting reviews health insurance system

• Draft reform to upgrade health services

President Ben Ali chaired a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday during which examination was made of the draft reform for the health insurance system.

The meeting opened with a review of the results of the consultations with the parties concerned commissioned by the Head of State on the general principals of the reform which had been established in previous Cabinet meetings. Examination was then made of the broad outlines of the draft reform, with regard to which note was taken of the progress that had been made in reaching consensual solutions to a number of its issues. It was agreed to pursue dialogue on outstanding issues with the parties concerned with a view to ensuring the reform's success.

In this context, the Head of State commended the progress that has been achieved in this sector and stressed the need to ensure that the reform serves to improve the quality of health services provided to the public as part of a coherent national health system. He also emphasized the importance of public health sector with regard to its fundamental role in training, research, as well as prevention and treatment.

The Head of State also emphasized that, in addition to taking into account the interests of the different parties, the essential focus of the draft reform consists of preserving the public's health, improving the quality of services and ensuring the balance of the social security fund.

Tunisia's stunning success

• In the book *From Bourguiba to Ben Ali, a financial analyst describes Tunisia's economic record*

In a book entitled *From Bourguiba to Ben Ali: Tunisia's stunning economic record*, financial analyst André Wilmots examines Tunisia's social and economic development and enumerates the achievements of its social programme and "development fever" in exports and tourism as generators of growth.

Emphasizing the sound economic management of the country and its openness and integration within the international context, Mr. Wilmots commends Tunisia's stability and social peace which have attracted huge investment which, in turn, have compensated for the scarcity of natural resources.

The 150-page book is published by L'Harmattan.

ENERGY SAVING AND RENEWABLE ENERGIES

ANER at the forefront of Tunisia's energy-saving strategy

Page 5

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Tunisia
News
N° 559 April 17, 2004

03

TUNISIA-JORDAN

Joint business council convenes in Amman

The Tuniso-Jordanian business council convened in Amman this week under the chairmanship of Mr. Hedi Jilani, president of the Tunisian Industry, Trade and Handicrafts Union and Mr. Haider Mourad, president of the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Hatem El Helouani, president of the Jordan Chamber of Industry. The council reviewed a number of questions involving mainly the means needed to enhance economic cooperation between both countries and backing up efforts by business people from both countries aimed at improving trade exchanges and identifying new partnership opportunities and mobilising joint investments.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the excellent bilateral political relations and the need to enhance further economic cooperation by providing

additional structural means namely a sea line and the adapting of both countries legislation to such requirements.

The intervening parties equally stressed the need for a better coordination of efforts for the setting up of the Arab free exchange zone. Mr. Djilani affirmed on this occasion the necessity to identify jointly other markets and make the best of the position of both countries and their respective experience in all fields especially overcoming the restrictions imposed by the respectively small domestic markets in both countries. Mr. Djilani equally reviewed Tunisia's economic progress and major reforms introduced and the investment incentives such reforms provide. Mr. Haider Mourad underscored the importance of such joint meeting bringing together the business

communities from both countries and the urgent need for the harmonisation of the legislatures and the implementation of the free exchange zone.

Mr. El Halouani for his part spoke of Tunisia's experience in terms of industrial restructuring and upgrading expressing the will of his country to make the best of such experience.

It is important to note that despite the excellent political ties between both countries, trade exchanges remain quite low and do not reflect the will of both sides to further develop such ties.

The meeting was held in the presence of Mr. Raouf El Basti, Tunisian ambassador to Amman, Mr. Ferid Tounsi, CEO of the exports centre, Mohammed Sahraoui, member of the UTICA executive bureau in charge of relations with the Arab World and a number of

business people from both countries. The visiting Tunisian delegation had the opportunity to visit the Abdalla II industrial zone and were briefed on major projects taking place in the area.

During a work session, the delegation met with a group of representatives of the Jordanian industrial zones. Exchange of views on respective experience in industrial planning and development were found fruitful by both parties.

Tunisian-Jordan trade relations are subject to an accord signed in 1998 in replacement of that of 1995. Exchanges between both countries in 2003 totalled 20 million dinars and include mainly electrical equipment, refrigeration equipment, construction materials and plastic products. The first Jordanian-Tunisia joint meeting took place in Tunis in 2003.

International law at the crossroads

**• Law of force or force of law?
Professor Dali Jazy emphasizes
Tunisia's advocacy of law for
preserving world peace and security**

The Minister for Defence, Professor Dali Jazy, chaired last Wednesday in Tunis the opening session of the sixth international meeting of the Faculty of Judicial, Political and Social Sciences organized in collaboration with the Hans Siedel Trust of Germany under the theme, "International law at the crossroads: Force of law or law of force?". Tunisian and European university teachers and experts debated these questions and other topical issues on the agenda which included the reform of the United Nations Security Council, collective security, multilateral cooperation, the International Court of Justice

and humanitarian intervention.

Addressing the participants, Professor Jazy noted the recourse to force is always detrimental to law. He deplored the fact that blind military power is countered by cowardly terrorist attacks and underlined the need to apply the force of law for maintaining peace and security throughout the world and fostering the progress of international law.

The defence minister also commended the faculty's contribution to strengthening Tunisia's advocacy of openness to the world and to firmly establishing the principles of peace, justice, tolerance and the primacy of law.

TUNISAIR

Restructuring programme reaches advanced stage

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
POPULATION AND

- Domestic flight fares remain unchanged
- A second operator for the management of ports
- Enfidha airport project: Concession to be attributed before the end of the year

Addressing participants in a seminar on the perspectives of air transportation in Tunisia, held on initiative by the *Tourisme Info* magazine, Mr. Sadok Rahab, minister for communication technology, communication and transport said that the state strategy involving privatisation of the sector rests on two major objectives. The first one is to allow public and private operators to improve their competitiveness tools while the second seeks to make use of the bilateral and multilateral conventions in order to back up the operation of the national flag carrier and especially its services and flights.

The minister added that the Tunisair investment programme projects the acquisition of new aircraft, will be operational by 2005 and was to be launched in 2002. This delay, the minister added was mainly caused

by the aftermath of September 11 events.

The minister added that the financial situation of the company will not be a positive factor in the negotiation of merging or other cooperation agreements with other companies emphasising that the restructuring programme is already at an advanced stage.

Separation between services and trade activities

Mr. Sadok Rahab added that emphasis was placed on flight security, improving profitability, controlling expenses in order to reach the aspired balance after a clear drop of 20% that affected globally flight

companies during the last years.

The minister also mentioned that the last few years were marked by the increasing passenger capacity of most Tunisian airports. The call to tender for the realisation of the new Enfidha airport within concession procedures will be carried out before the end of the year. The airport will be operational by 2008. The minister equally added that a license for a second operator of airports will end the monopoly of the Oaca.

In terms of perspectives, the minister indicated that Tunisair action during the next few years will consist in separating between sale services and other services delivered by the company within global state strategies involving recourse to subsidies. The minister added that fares for domestic flights will remain unchanged as this may affect other companies providing such services.

The UN Sahel and Sahara Observatory holds GA in Tunis

- Preserving resources and fighting desertification: The Tunisian experience in the limelight

Mr. Mohammed Habib Haddad, agriculture, environment and natural resources minister met yesterday with Dr. Hama Arbadialo, executive secretary of the UN Convention for the fighting against desertification within the fifth session of the Sahel and Sahara Observatory board of directors and the second General Assembly held in Tunis this week.

The minister stressed the importance given to Tunisia in the protection of natural resources and their sustainability besides the fight against desertification and studies of climate change.

Mr. Haddad evoked projects realised by Tunisia during the current decade namely in the mobilisation of water and forest resources, fighting erosion and maintaining a balan-

ced environment through the preservation of natural resources.

Mr. Arbadialo paid tribute to the Tunisian experience in the preservation of natural resources and the fight against desertification. Accent was on the importance of international cooperation on the bilateral and multilateral level to back up efforts by countries facing the threat of desertifica-

tion.

The minister and his guest equally evoked the Italian initiative submitted to the convention with the new African development program involving the realisation of a large number of projects in Tunisia, Algeria, the Niger and Senegal and the continuous support to regional joint action in this field.

□

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A national conference for the evaluation of action programme

A national conference will be held in Tunis April 17 through 19 in implementation of the Cairo ICPD action programme ten years after its initiation.

The conference is organised by the Tunisian Association for Family Planning in collaboration with the European Union, the regional bureau of the international family planning federation (IPPF), the United Nations Fund for the family. The major objectives include an appraisal of the Cairo conference ten years after and especially progress made in the completing the identification of the concrete measures for the final setting up of an action programme. Discussions will provide recommendations which will be the programme of action for the next five years (2004-2009). Its programme will be focused on major action domains of the ICPD which are population and development, sexual and reproduction health for teenagers and young people as well as equality between the sexes and prevention of AIDS/HIV.

The conference will bring together representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations operating in Tunisia. The participation of family planning associations from neighbouring countries namely from Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and members of the IPPF will give the event a regional dimension. Among guests there will be Mrs. Nina Puri and Mr. Steven Sinding, respectively chair and general director of the IPPF.

Papers and discussions as well as workshops will focus essentially on the respective experiences of participant countries.

The Tunisian Association for Family Planning, which is member of the international family planning federation, is represented in the 23 governorates of the republic where it is working on improving family conditions and the promotion of women health namely in reproduction health as well as the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

TRADE FAIRS AND JOINT CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

TRADE & COMMERCIAL FAIRS

IBNOU SINA 2004, 8th International Hospital, Clinic and Medical Centre Equipment Salon
April 21 through 24, 2004

Location: CIFCO, La Chargaia, Tunis
Organizer: Sogefoires International
Tel.: 00 (216) 71 787 933
Fax: 00 (216) 71 786 226
Web site: www.sogefoires.com
E-mail: info@sogefoires.com.tn

EQUIP GARAGE 2004, 1st Garage Equipment Salon

April 22 through 25, 2004
Location: Sfax Exhibition Centre
Organizer: Association de la Foire Internationale de Sfax
Tel.: 00 (216) 74 800 028
Fax: 00 (216) 74 296 527
Web site: www.foire-sfax.com
E-mail: m.g@foire-sfax.com.tn

42nd Nabeul International Fair

April 23 through May 9, 2004
Location: Nabeul International Exhibition Centre
Organizer: Société de la Foire de Nabeul
Tel.: 00 (216) 72 285 374, 72 287 365
Fax: 00 (216) 72 223 242

SALON 2004, 3rd Living-room Furniture Salon

April 30 through May 9, 2004
Location: CIFCO, La Chargaia, Tunis
Organizer: Sogefoires International
Tel.: 00 (216) 71 787 933
Fax: 00 (216) 71 786 226
Web site: www.sogefoires.com
E-mail: info@sogefoires.com.tn

Mediterranean Agrofoods and Olive Oil Salon

May 18 through 22, 2004
Location: Sfax Exhibition Centre
Organizer: Association de la Foire Internationale de Sfax
Tel.: 00 (216) 74 800 028
Fax: 00 (216) 74 296 527

JOINT CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

TUNISIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (TACC)

10 Avenue Mosbah Jarbou, El Manar III, 2082 Tunis
Tel. (00 216) 71 889 780, 71 870 454, 71 883 226, 71 874 244
Fax (00 216) 71 889 880, 71 872 279, 71 874 166
E-mail: tacc@tacc.org.tn
Web site: www.tacc.org.tn

TUNISIAN-BENELUX (BELGIAN-LUXEMBOURGER) CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

20 rue de Kazakhstan, 2037 Ennasr I, Tunis
Tel. (00 216) 71 873 530, 71 873 828
Fax: (00 216) 71 874 076

TUNISIAN-BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

23 rue de Jerusalem, 1002 Tunis-Belvédère
Tel. (00 216) 71 802 284
Fax: (00 216) 71 801 535
E-mail: tbcci@gnet.tn

TUNISIAN-CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Berges du Lac, Tunis
Tel. (00 216) 71 962 428, 71 962 616

TUNISIAN-DUTCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Tel. (00 216) 71 885 442
Fax (00 216) 71 881 780
E-mail: ctmci@planet.tn

TUNISIAN-FRENCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (CTFCI)

39 Rue 8301, Montplaisir, 1002 Tunis
Tel. (00 216) 71 844 310
Fax (00 216) 71 845 962
E-mail: ctfci@planet.tn
Web site: ccife.org/tunisie

TUNISIAN-GERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Immeuble Le Dôme, Rue du Lac Léman, 2045 Berges du Lac, Tunis
Tel. (00 216) 71 965 280
Fax (00 216) 71 964 553
E-mail: info@ahktunis.org
Web site: www.ahktunis.org

TUNISIAN-ITALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Tel. (00 216) 71 940 443
Fax (00 216) 71 940 543
E-mail: tunisitalia.ctici@planet.tn

TUNISIAN-SCANDINAVIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (CTSCCI)

EXCHANGE RATES IN TUNISIAN DINARS Account and Cash Operations for 14/04/2004

Denomination	Unit	Dinars
Saudi Ryal	10	3.336
Canadian Dollar	1	0.944
Danish Krone	100	20.210
U.A.E Dirham	10	3.437
U.S. Dollar	1	1.262
Sterling Pound	1	2.284
Japanese Yen	1,000	11.762
Kuwaiti Dinar	1	4.280
Norwegian Krone	100	18.155
Swedish Krona	10	1.640
Swiss Franc	10	9.686
Euro	1	1.504

Tunis Stock Exchange General Indexes

Date	BVMT Index	Movement
26/03/2004	983.61	0.14%
29/03/2004	987.12	0.36%
30/03/2004	1000.12	1.32%
31/03/2004	1002.05	0.19%
1/04/2004	1001.77	-0.03%

Date	Tunindex	Movement
26/03/2004	1291.03	0.46%
29/03/2004	1293.71	0.21%
30/03/2004	1302.30	0.66%
31/03/2004	1302.41	0.01%
1/04/2004	1303.91	0.12%

CULTURE BYTES

Compiled by Mahmoud Bouali

EXCAVATIONS IN CARTHAGE

F — First excavation of Carthage

The first systematic excavation of Carthage was carried out by Dr. Nathan Davis, a witty and choleric archaeologist despatched in the mid-19th century by Britain's Foreign Secretary, Lord Clarendon. The account of his findings, recently re-published, is as lively an account of both ancient and existing societies as one could hope for. He contrasts insights into the glorious past with the daily frustrations of the team:

"Dig, dig, dig amid earth, mortar and stone,

And dig, dig, dig among runs overthrown

Spade, and bucket, and

pick, the toiling Arabs ply.

From breath of early dawn till evening shades drawn night."

British experts have returned regularly to Carthage and other sites and when, in 1972, UNESCO launched an international campaign to "Save Carthage" from obliteration by builders, Britain was among the first countries to respond. From 1974 to 1979, large-scale excavations were carried out by a team organized by the British Academy, with particularly exciting results in the Punic ports, later rebuilt by the Romans.



1. CARTHAGE - L'ancien de Sigea - Hieroglyphes Punique (Touffier des Plines-Monnet)

Stephen and Philippa Day, *At Home in Carthage: The British in Tunisia*, published by the Trustees of St. George's Church, Tunis, p. 46

B — Bir Ftouha excavations

The focus of the 1994 and 1996 excavations is a field called Bir Ftouha in the northern outskirts of the ancient city of Carthage, about 1 km. from the city wall. This area has long been known to archaeologists as an important Christian enclave of the late Roman through Byzantine periods, but it has never been systematically excavated or published.

A very notorious bir

In October 1880 a basin was discovered in the vicinity of the well (in Arabic *bir*) in the western part of the field and was interpreted as a baptismal font.

Further excavation of the western area, undertaken by Pere Delattre in 1928-29, revealed a complex of buildings which included a trefoil funerary chapel.

In January 1895, Delattre reported that a basilica had been found in the western part of the field which was partially excavated in 1897 by Paul Gauckler.

Gauckler's limited publication focussed almost exclusively on one important floor mosaic and six tomb mosaics of the Byzantine period found at the site.

Thanks to Delattre, Gauckler...

Some fragments of mosaic were lifted and sent to the Bardo Museum where they are still on display in the early Christian room.

Another fragment of the floor mosaic was sent to the Louvre, where it is still on display.

The full extent of the 19th-century excavations in the eastern area of Bir Ftouha is not known, but at least one trench 5-10m x 25m was shown Bordy plan. Despite the size of this trench, excavations were clearly insufficient to establish a plan of the building because the basilica was alternately described as being circular or semi-circular.

C — Carthage harbours

...As noted, a wall, referred to as the city wall, ran along the south edge of the mole in the east part of the excavation and stepped southwards by some five metres in the area of the "landing bay" and small wall referred to. It then ran straight across the suggested



three metres along the waterfront, extending over the unmortared blocks of El Haouaria of the suggested early quay. It returned south at right angles to this over a width of 1.5-2 metres, interrupting the second-third century *opus caementicium* of the mole at the south edge of the

US okays Israeli withdrawal plan

- Sharon has to win support at home
- Palestinians and Arabs outraged

Riding high on an historic U.S. nod for Israel keeping Palestinian territory taken in war, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon returned home on Friday into a storm of Arab outrage and still uncertain of crucial domestic support. Palestinians said the Sharon plan for effectively annexing parts of the West Bank would kill off an already moribund peace process, and deplored President Bush's agreement that their refugees should not go back to lands now in Israel.

At the White House on Wednesday, Bush backed a unilateral Israeli pullback from Gaza pitched by Sharon as a bid to break the diplomatic deadlock after three and a half years marked by Palestinian suicide bombings and Israeli military crackdowns.

Well-informed Israeli commentators quoted Sharon, when told of Palestinian outrage, as saying: "I said that we were going to deal them a lethal blow, and they were dealt a lethal blow."

Calling Bush's move a "catastrophe," Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei urged an emergency meeting of the quartet of the European Union, United States, Russia and United Nations, patrons of a tattered "road map" to

what he wanted to win over Israeli skeptics of his plan to uproot Gaza's 20 Jewish settlements and four of 120 in the West Bank, while retaining larger enclaves there housing most of the 230,000 settlers.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan censured Bush for ignoring the wishes of Palestinians, while the European Union said it would not accept border changes unless agreed by both sides.

Saudi Arabia, a key U.S. ally, said Bush's backing for Sharon's plan would "if cemented...complicate peace opportunities and cripple the peace process."

Secretary of State Colin Powell defended Bush's policy shift against charges of pro-Israel bias, saying: "I don't think we have abandoned our role as an honest broker at all."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said ahead of talks with Bush that he hoped the U.S. leader's Middle East policy shift could build momentum toward an elusive peace deal.

"I think it's important that we ensure that the initiative that has been taken the past couple of days leads to a real sense of movement and change there in the Middle East," he said after meeting Annan

what he dubs a plan of "disengagement" from conflict with the Palestinians.

Several Likud ministers oppose the plan. Ultrnationalists in Sharon's coalition have threatened to bolt in protest. Unfazed, the ex-general hinted they could be replaced — perhaps with opposition parties to form a "national unity" cabinet. Opinion polls in Israel have consistently shown strong support for leaving Gaza, a power base for Islamic militant groups sworn to the destruction of the Jewish state. One poll on Thursday found 58 percent Likud support for a Gaza pullout.

Bush's move could improve the president's standing with American Jews and other pro-Israel constituencies ahead of U.S. elections in November. But the Arab outcry may further sap support for the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

Washington had never come out so openly against the right of return claimed by Palestinians dispossessed in the 1948 war of Israel's creation, and millions of their descendants. The Jewish state says a refugee influx would mean demographic suicide.

A senior Israeli official said Sharon expected the pullback to be completed in 2005 and

PERU

Congress approves murder charges against Fujimori

Peru's Congress approved murder charges against ex-President Alberto Fujimori for allegedly authorizing the death squad killing of a union leader more than a decade ago, officials said Thursday.

Fujimori's government collapsed amid a corruption scandal in November 2000. He has since lived in Tokyo, protected from extradition by Japanese citizenship. He denies any wrongdoing and insists the allegations against him are politically motivated.

Peruvian prosecutors have piled up more than a dozen charges against him, from murder to illegal wiretapping and corruption in hopes of pressuring Tokyo to extradite him.

Congress voted 56-5 with four abstentions late Wednesday to approve charges that Fujimori directed a paramilitary death squad to murder one of the nation's most influential labor leaders, Pedro

Huilca, the legislature said in a statement released Thursday.

Huilca, a popular leader of organized construction workers, had been a harsh critic of Fujimori before his December 1992 murder.

Fujimori and his government investigators maintained that Shining Path guerrillas killed Huilca, although witnesses said the men who grabbed him outside of his Lima home drove sport utility vehicles with police license plates. Huilca was found shot to death on the outskirts of the capital. Investigators reopened the case after Fujimori fled Peru.

Pro-Fujimori legislators on Thursday criticized the congressional vote, claiming the charges lack evidence.

Fujimori has vowed to run for Peru's presidency in 2006, despite the mounting criminal charges against him and a congressional ban on his holding public office until 2010.

U.N. panel condemns Uganda

Tunisia News

Weekly Newspaper - Founder Director : Tijani Haddad
10th Year, Number 559 - April 17, 2004

Austrian Air offers inflight voting

After in-flight entertainment, drinks and duty-free shopping, voting for president in the air is all part of the service for Austria's national carrier, Austrian Airlines Group. The airline has said it would offer Austrian citizens the chance to vote in the April 25 presidential election while cruising at 560 mph as long as they had the card that allows voting in places other than their voting centres.

"The voting procedure must take place outside Austrian airspace," Austrian Airlines said in a statement. "Our stewards will happily serve as voting witnesses."

Austrian Airlines offered voting facilities during previous national and presidential elections, and although not all passengers voted, the airline saw it as a little extra that added to the service.

"Ice highway" opens earth's last frontier

Six Americans have just ended a second year of what looks like an impossible mission - carving out a road to the South Pole. The 1,020-mile "ice highway" from the coast

ger John Wright is convinced it can be completed, though not by next summer as originally hoped.

The completion date is the end of the polar summer in

Uncovering the "hidden wonders of the world", sparking off a fever of excitement in every neighbourhood and offering nothing less than a "new art of living" are just some of the ambitions set itself by Lille, designated this year, along with Genoa (Italy), European Capital of Culture.

For the first time in the history of this honour, an entire "Euroregion" is lining up behind a key city: "60% of Lille 2004 will not take place in Lille", as Martine Aubry, mayor of the metropolis of the Nord region, likes to stress. Not only Boulogne-sur-Mer, Calais, Dunkirk, Arras, Maubeuge, Valenciennes, Douai, Cambrai and Lens, but also many Belgian towns (Walloon and Flemish) are involved in the venture.

Road and air links allow the different events to be reached quickly, but you are advised to arrive in Lille by train. Indeed, the tone is set from the moment you arrive in the station. Impressive geometric steel sculptures and huge black suns welcome you to Lille-Europe, while Lille-Flandres station is arrayed with luminous transfigurations that change with the time of day.

Leaving the station, tourists will find themselves seamlessly entering the hustle of Nanking street... in Shanghai, a reconstruction of the Chinese city's main street. Then the "urban enchantments" of Lille 2004 follow one after the other as you wander through the town. Here, the Lucie Lom graphics agency invites the stroller to explore the foliage of its forest hanging upside down twelve metres above the roadway. There, pedestrians and vehicles pass through the seven great futurist arches positioned along the Chemin des Etoiles designed by Jean-Claude Mézières, the famous science fiction comic strip cartoonist.

Several places are adorned with strange

MAGAZINE

Lille, European Culture Capital



take a break and do a little dreaming. Further on, Serge Lutens, a famous perfumer and native of Lille, has devised a labyrinth of local fragrances: the aroma of black earth, of shaken sheets, of filled waffles...

Even a trip on the underground has surprises in store - the tunnels between stations are decorated with moving landscapes. How is it done? As the train goes along it brings to life the still pictures arranged along the route. In this land of the Jack o' the clock*, it is impossible to avoid the magnificent example by Austrian Kurt Hentschlagel installed on the Lille-Europe tower - every thirty minutes, its 1,880 neon lights distribute over twenty floors emit frantic pulses, visible for miles around!

But the big idea of Lille 2004 is the Maisons Folie, inspired by the extravagant and playful aristocratic residences of the 18th century known as "folies". Forming links between past and future, these old buildings (convent, hospice, spinning mill,

and Lambertsart), four outside it (Arras, Maubeuge, Calais and Dunkirk) and three in Belgium (Courtrai, Mons and Tournai).

The Condition Publique, in Roubaix, is one of the project's most impressive Maisons Folie. The building occupies a total area of nearly 2 hectares and consists of two market halls each measuring 2,400 square metres, an indoor glass-roofed street 15 metres wide and 140 metres long, dozens of little rooms and disused laboratories, all covered by roof-gardens 12 metres above the ground in which a luxuriant vegetation flourishes. This amazing structure constructed in the 19th century was originally used for the preparation and trade of wool. Part of the building has now been restored - the internal street and one of the big halls. The rest will eventually house a 21st century arts centre. From April to June, Jamaica will be moving into the Condition Publique, with a reconstruction of a Kingston street and the hills of Zion. The public will be taken on a journey of